Reactive Model-based Programming of Embedded Systems

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Observations: VLSI circa 1979

VLSI designers aren't good at reasoning through complex physical interactions:

Solution:

- Simplifying abstractions
- Design rules
- Design rule verifiers
- Silicon compilers

Observations: Embedded SW, 2001

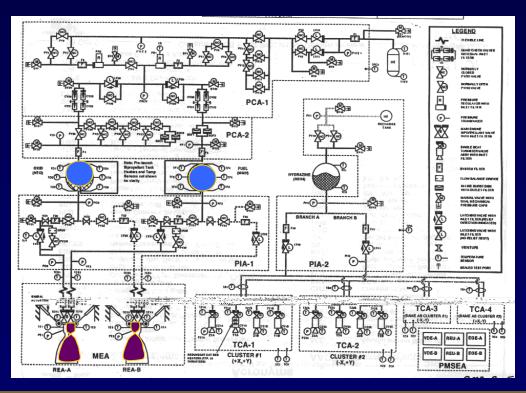












Obs: Embedded Flight Software

Programmers of embedded systems:

- Aren't good at reasoning through complex physical interactions.
 (Mars Polar Lander, test stand and sw monitor failure).
- Aren't good at anticipating all novel interactions with the environment.

 (Deep Space One, star tracker).
- Rarely have time to add in fault protection layers. (Mars Polar Lander and Climate Orbiters).
- Embedded languages should do this for you.

Thesis: Model-based Programming

Embedded programs should:

- include models of the physical plant.
- reason through plant interactions for you.
- reveal their reasoning at compile time for analysis.
- reason on the fly to handle unanticipated circumstances.
- reason on the fly to optimize performance to the situation.



We should fold extensive reasoning into our interpreters and compilers

Reactive Model-based Programming Language, v 1.0

Embedded programs interact with plant sensors and actuators:

- Read sensors
- Set actuators

Embedded Program

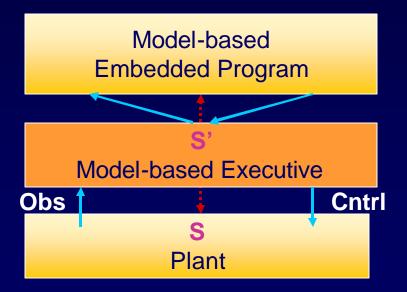
Obs Cntrl

S
Plant

Programmer must map between state, sensors, and actuators.

Model-based programs interact with plant state:

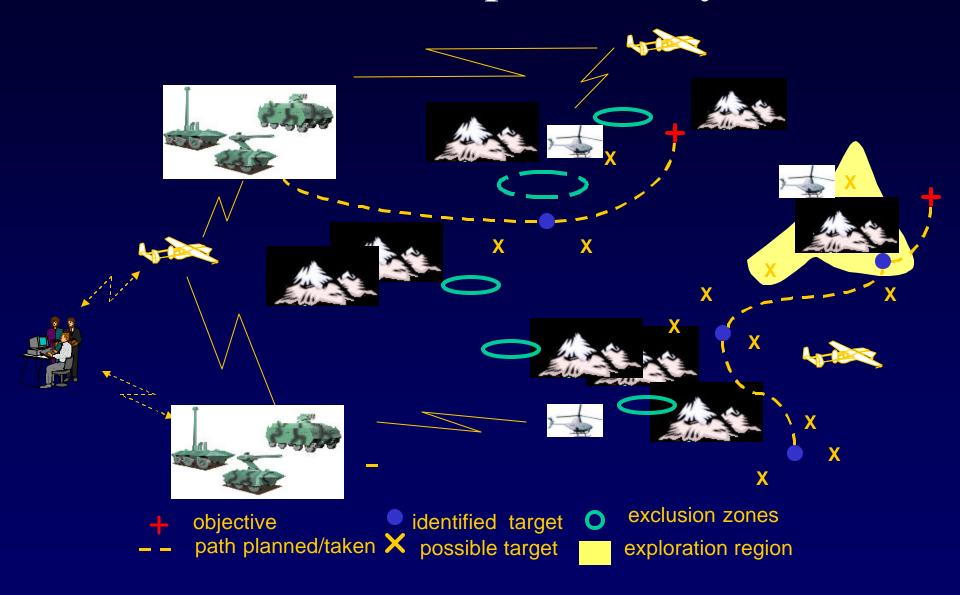
- Read state
- Write state



Model-based executive maps between state and sensors/actuators.

Requires: Propositional SAT engine in reactive loop

DOD: On To Cooperative Systems



Reactive Model-based Programming Language, v 2.0

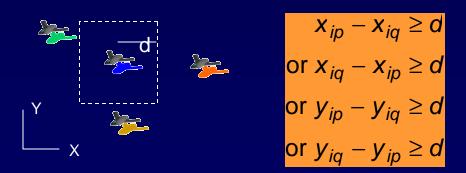
- Cooperative Programs
 - Specify team behaviors as concurrent embedded programs.
 - Introduce redundant options with decision theoretic choice.
 - Introduce timing requirements between activities.

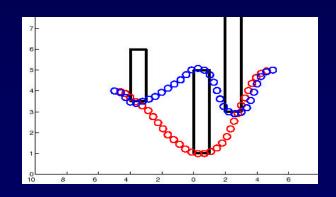
- Model-based Executive
 - Plans and schedules options at the scale of seconds.
 - Continuously searches for optimal plans
 - Monitors execution and replans.

Requires: hierarchical planning and scheduling in reactive loop

Reactive Model-based Programming Language, v 3.0

- Cooperative Programs
 - include goal destinations and flight dynamics
- Model-based Executive
 - plans trajectories and detailed control actions.





Requires: kino-dynamic path planning and mixed integer/linear programming with in the reactive loop

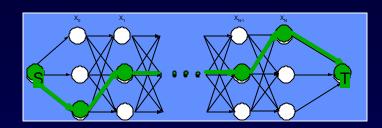
Embedded systems need to anticipate the seemingly unlikely





Reactive Model-based Programming Language, v N.0

- Model-based Programs
 - same as before



- Model-based Executive
 - tracks unlikely system trajectories.
 - extracts statistically significant trends from noise.
 - checks future safety of most likely trajectories.
 - validates plans against likely failures.
 - plans contingencies and prepares for them.

Requires: hybrid mode estimation, model checking, Bayesian inference...with in the reactive loop

Summary: Embedded Flight Software

Programmers of embedded systems:

- Don't like reasoning through interactions and failure.
- Embedded languages should do this for you.



We should fold extensive reasoning into our online interpreters and compilers